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COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter GOOSEN (South Africa)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive test-ban treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/70 of 16 December 1993.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 October 1994, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 53 to 66, 68 to 72 and 153. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 10th meetings, from 17 to 24 October (see A/C.1/49/PV.3-10). Structured discussions of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach took place from 25 to 27 and on 31 October and 1 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 12th to 16th meetings on 3, 4, 7 and 9 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.12-16). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place at the 19th to 25th meetings, from 14 to 18 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.19-25).

4. In connection with item 57, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/49/27).

(b) Letter dated 20 June 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/185);

(c) Letter dated 12 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the texts of the final documents of the Summit of the seven major industrial nations, held at Naples from 6 to 8 July 1994 (A/49/228-S/1994/827);

(d) Letter dated 25 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the texts of the documents adopted by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo from 31 May to 3 June 1994 (A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1);

(e) Letter dated 5 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/381);

(f) Letter dated 17 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/532-S/1994/1179).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/49/L.22 AND Rev.1

5. On 1 November, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey and Venezuela, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" (A/C.1/49/L.22), which was later also sponsored by Brunei Darussalam, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Viet Nam. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of New Zealand at the 13th meeting, on 4 November.

6. On 16 November, the same sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/49/L.22/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by China, Belgium, France, Peru, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The revised draft resolution contained the following changes:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Noting with satisfaction the suspension of testing by a number of nuclear-weapon States"

was deleted;

(b) The words "and their conclusion without delay" were added at the end of operative paragraph 5;

(c) Operative paragraph 7 was deleted;

(d) Operative paragraph 8 was renumbered as operative paragraph 7, and the word "also" in that paragraph was deleted.

7. In connection with the revised draft resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a statement of programme budget implications (A/C.1/49/L.51).

8. At its 24th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.22/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/70 of 16 December 1993, in which the entire international community, for the first time, supported the commencement of multilateral negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Reaffirming that a comprehensive nuclear test ban is one of the highest priority objectives of the international community in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Convinced that the most effective way to achieve an end to nuclear testing is through the conclusion of a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States and which will contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security,

Reaffirming the conviction that the exercise of utmost restraint in respect of nuclear testing would be consistent with the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

Noting the aspirations expressed by the parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 1/ to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, which are recalled in the preamble to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 2/

Welcoming the preparation of a rolling text in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban of the Conference on Disarmament, as reflected in the report of the Conference and its appendix, 3/ and noting the decision of the Conference to continue its work in inter-sessional meetings,

1. Welcomes the multilateral negotiation on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban of the Conference on Disarmament, and the positive and substantial contributions to the elaboration of the rolling text made by States participating in those negotiations;

2. Calls upon participants in the Conference on Disarmament to advance work on the basis of the rolling text during the inter-sessional negotiating period with a view to making substantial progress;

3. Also calls upon the Conference on Disarmament, upon the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban at the commencement of its 1995 session and renewal of its mandate, to proceed to a new phase of negotiation;

4. Urges all States participating in the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to negotiate intensively, as a high priority task, and to conclude a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty which contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects;

5. Calls once more upon all States to support the multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty and their conclusion without delay;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services for these negotiations;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Comprehensive test-ban treaty".

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

2/ Ibid, vol. 729, No. 10485.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/49/27), chap. III, sect. A.